## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

# **PCT**

# TRANSLATION INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicar 904	nt's or agent's file reference  463	FOR FURTHER A	ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416						
Internation	onal application No.	International filing da	ate (day/month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)						
PCT/JP2004/017831		24.11.200	4	28.11.2003						
Internation	International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC									
B60K1/04, B62D25/20, H01M2/10										
500KI/04, 502525/20, NOIME/10										
Applicar	nt .									
	OTA JIDOSHA KAE	BUSHIKI KAISHA	Ą							
1.	This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.									
2.	This REPORT consists of a total	ol of	sheets, includin	g this cover sheet.						
3.	This report is also accompanied	by ANNEXES, comprising								
	a. (sent to the applican	nt and to the International Bi	ureau) a total of 2	sheets, as follows:						
			·	amended and are the basis for this report and/or						
	sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).									
	sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.									
	b (sent to the Internat	<i>ional Bureau only)</i> a total of	(indicate type and numbe	er of electronic carrier(s))						
				, containing a sequence listing and/or tables						
	related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).									
4.	This report contains indications	relating to the following iter	ns:							
	Box No. I Basis	of the report								
	Box No. II Priori	ty								
	Box No. III Non-o	stablishment of opinion with	regard to novelty, invent	tive step and industrial applicability						
		of unity of invention	•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						
	Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement									
	Box No. VI Certai	n documents cited								
	Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application									
	Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application									
Date of submission of the demand Da			Date of completion of th	is report						
			1	•						
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP			Authorized officer							
Faccionile No.		Talanhana Na								

### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No. PCT/JP2004/017831

Box	No. I	I Basis of the report					
1.		ith regard to the language, this report is based on the international licated under this item.	application in the language in w	hich it was filed, unless otherwise			
		This report is based on translations from the original language is which is the language of a translation furnished for the purpose international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))  publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)  international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 5	s of:				
2.	rece	ith regard to the <b>elements</b> of the international application, this represeiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are response.  the international application as originally filed/furnished the description:	ort is based on (replacement sh				
		pages		as originally filed/furnished			
		pages* _1 re	eceived by this Authority on _	29.03.2005			
		pages* re	eceived by this Authority on _				
	$\boxtimes$	the claims:					
		nos. 2-9		as originally filed/furnished			
		nos.*	as amended (together	with any statement) under Article 19			
		nos.* 1 re	eceived by this Authority on _	29.03.2005			
		nos.*	eceived by this Authority on _				
	$\boxtimes$	the drawings:					
		sheets fig. 1-13		as originally filed/furnished			
		sheets* re		<del></del>			
			_				
	П	a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplements	_				
2	$\Box$	1	ar Box Remaing to Sequence Bis	·			
3.	ш	The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:					
		the description, pages					
		the claims, nos.					
		_					
4.	Ш	This report has been established as if (some of) the amendment they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed,					
		the description, pages					
		the claims, nos.					
		the drawings, sheets/figs	the drawings, sheets/figs				
		the sequence listing (specify):					
		any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify):					
*	If ite	tem 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superse	ded."				

### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

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PCT/JP2004/017831

Вох	x No. II Priority
1.	This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the failure to furnish within the prescribed time limit the requested:
	copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 66.7(a)).
	translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 66.7(b)).
2.	This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rule 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this report, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.
3.	Additional observations, if necessary:
	The inventions set forth in claims 1 to 3 are
	disclosed in the prior application that serves as the
	basis for claiming the rights of priority; consequently,
	the rights of priority that were claimed therefor are
	considered to be valid.
	However, the inventions set forth in claims 4 to 9
	are not disclosed or suggested in the prior application
	that serves as the basis for claiming the rights of
	priority, and are not obvious; consequently, the rights
	of priority that were claimed therefor are not valid.

#### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

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Box			ticle 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; poorting such statement	
1.	Statement			
	Novelty (N)	Claims	1-9	YES
		Claims		_ NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	6	YES
		Claims	1-5, 7-9	_ NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-9	YES
		Claims		NO

#### 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

- Document 1: JP 2003-170748 A (Toyota Motor Corp.), 17

  June 2003, fig. 1 to 2 (Family: none)
- Document 2: JP 2004-17808 A (Toyota Motor Corp.), 22

  January 2004, fig. 1 to 3 (Family: none)
- Document 3: JP 2000-238541 A (Mazda Motor Corp.), 05 September 2000, fig. 1 to 2 (Family: none)

The inventions set forth in claims 1 to 3 do not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 and 3 cited in the international search report. The invention disclosed in document 1 comprises a rocker that is provided to the side part of the floor panel. Meanwhile, the invention disclosed in document 3 comprises a battery pack that is provided to the floor panel at a location between a rocker and a tunnel that extends from the front part of the vehicle body to the back part of the vehicle body. Such being the case, it cannot be considered to be especially difficult to apply the floor panel disclosed in document 3 in the invention disclosed in document 1.

The inventions set forth in claims 4, 5 and 9 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 2 cited in the international search report. It cannot be considered to be especially difficult for a person

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

skilled in the art to dispose the equipment at locations on the rear side of the vehicle relative to the battery unit in the invention disclosed in document 2.

The inventions set forth in claims 7 and 8 do not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 2 and 3 cited in the international search report. It would have been easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of applying the floor panel disclosed in document 3 in the invention disclosed in document 2.

On the other hand, the invention set forth in claim 6 is not disclosed in any of the documents that are cited in the international search report, and would not have been obvious to a person skilled in the art.